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# Selected Speeches and News Releases

June 11 - June 17, 1992

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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## STATES ESTIMATED TO RECEIVE \$310 MILLION IN NATIONAL FOREST PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, June 11—An estimated \$310 million in 1992 National Forest System receipts will be shared among 43 states and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

F. Dale Robertson, chief of USDA's Forest Service, said receipts are collected from land-use fees and sale of resources on 191 million acres of national forests and grasslands. Federal law requires states to use their share of the receipts for public schools and roads.

“Providing advance estimates of the state payments helps local budget planners complete their work,” said Robertson. “The final payments will be based on actual receipts collected and may vary from the estimates announced today.”

Interim payments totaling 75 percent of the estimated state shares of national forest receipts will be made in September. The balance will be paid in December, when final revenue figures on fiscal year 1992 are available.

Counties in some of the states also share in the national grassland and land utilization project receipts which are based on calendar year 1992 revenues. Robertson said these receipts will be paid in March 1993.

States received more than \$323 million as their share of 1991 national forest revenues. Counties participating in the national grasslands program counties received over \$7 million in revenue from land use fees.

State by state, the estimated 1992 payments are:

State	Payments from National Forest Receipts	Payments from Land Utilization Fees on National Grasslands
ALABAMA	\$1,660,718.00	
ALASKA	1,364,538.75	
ARIZONA	6,541,386.76	
ARKANSAS	4,053,796.56	\$4,199.96
CALIFORNIA*/	51,835,143.82	113.59
COLORADO	4,421,011.59	365,984.69
FLORIDA	1,297,000.02	121,268.10
GEORGIA	1,105,500.03	
IDAHO	15,841,107.80	1,807.05
ILLINOIS	62,695.02	
INDIANA	10,510.54	
KANSAS		541,837.06
KENTUCKY	585,186.31	54,228.91
LOUISIANA	3,519,515.27	
MAINE	28,996.03	
MARYLAND		924.32
MICHIGAN	1,791,000.07	101,462.36
MINNESOTA	2,217,670.31	
MISSISSIPPI	6,104,612.79	
MISSOURI	1,300,750.01	7,250.50
MONTANA	8,786,210.66	
NEBRASKA ^	45,342.51	12,562.80
NEVADA	346,795.66	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	424,635.29	
NEW MEXICO	1,904,493.19	21,999.40
NEW YORK	3,840.62	
NORTH CAROLINA	600,468.17	
NORTH DAKOTA	51.76	4,280,337.68
OHIO	200,078.30	406.13
OKLAHOMA	398,178.47	473,939.87
OREGON*/	140,044,903.29	4,468.71



PENNSYLVANIA	4,311,104.42	2,643.27
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,541,655.52	
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,750,599.30	147,646.22
TENNESSEE	386,098.89	
TEXAS	2,568,299.40	125,816.29
UTAH	1,349,137.47	
VERMONT	146,366.53	
VIRGINIA	419,180.00	
WASHINGTON*/	36,352,050.31	
WEST VIRGINIA	977,459.16	454.75
WISCONSIN	770,328.92	
WYOMING	2,050,830.89	435,758.52
PUERTO RICO	16,500.00	
GRAND TOTAL	<hr/> \$310,135,748.41	<hr/> \$6,705,110.18

\*/Estimated payments to California, Oregon and Washington were computed under a provision of the Interior and Related Agencies 1992 Appropriations Act. Section 316 of that Act provides for payments to states for fiscal year 1991 of not less than 90% of the five-year average payments for fiscal years 1986-90 for those national forests affected by decisions on the northern spotted owl. Estimated payments to these states are higher because of this legislation than they would have been if based solely on actual receipts.

Ann Matejko (202) 475-3787

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## FOREST SERVICE TO SIGN FORESTRY AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL

WASHINGTON, June 12—United States and Brazilian officials today signed an agreement to promote scientifically based forest management in the two countries.

“This program is mutually beneficial to both the Forest Service and the Brazilians. The Brazilian scientists and managers are among the best in the world and we are looking forward to a long and prosperous relationship,” said F. Dale Robertson, Chief of the Forest Service.

The agreement, signed at the Earth Summit in Rio De Janerio, promotes forest-related cooperation between the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the Brazilian environmental agency Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e Recursos Renovais—IBAMA.

Cooperation under this implementing arrangement will include forest-related and socio-economic assessments, scientific exchanges, technical support, and forest science and management demonstrations.

The initial focus of forest management and research activities will be in and around the Tapajos National Forest in the State of Para, Brazil. It will be used as a demonstration area for an overall national plan for resource management.

This implementing arrangement follows an agreement signed between the USDA Forest Service and IBAMA last August by Vice President Quayle. This is the second implementing arrangement to be signed. The first was the implementing arrangement for fire science and management, signed in September, 1991, at the World Forestry Congress in Paris, France.

The agreement was signed by Jeff Sirmon, Deputy Chief for International Forestry and the President of IBAMA, Dr. Maria Teresa Jorge Padua.

John Denne (202) 205-0974

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## **STOP EROSION WITH CHEESE-MAKING LEFTOVERS**

WASHINGTON, June 12—To prevent soil erosion and boost harvests on poor soils, leftovers from cheese-making may be the “whey” to go, say U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

“We found that pumping cottage cheese whey onto sloped, furrowirrigated fields can cut soil erosion losses between 65 and 75 percent,” said Melvin J. Brown, a soil scientist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Kimberly, Idaho.

Whey, leftover from cheese production, is slightly milky and watery, but “is a little sticky because of its sugar and protein content,” Brown said. The type used by researchers comes from cottage cheese, and is acidic, about the same pH as vinegar. The acidity is beneficial to the soil. Hard cheeses, like cheddar, produce sweet whey as a by-product.

“In the west, over 500 million tons of valuable topsoil wash off during



furrow irrigation each year, threatening future harvests,” said Brown at the Soil and Water Management Research Unit in Kimberly. Also, he said, the sediments can choke rivers and damage hydroelectric power plants.

Brown flooded furrows with whey at a rate of about 50 gallons per minute, until the liquid reached the end of the rows. Soil was less prone to wash away during subsequent irrigations, he said. “On one field with a 4.4 percent slope, we lost about 75 percent less soil in the whey-treated furrows, compared to untreated ones.”

Whey could become an erosion fighter, he said, because it is abundant and inexpensive. About half of the 2 million tons of acidic whey produced in the U.S. each year currently goes to waste. Cheese factories actually must pay to dispose of excess whey through local sewage treatment plants.

This summer, Brown plans to combine the whey with another erosion prevention tactic he has used: scattering straw in the furrows. “We expect the whey-straw combination to reduce erosion better than either treatment alone,” he said.

Brown’s colleague, Charles R. Robbins at the Kimberly lab, first came up with the idea of using whey on fields for restoring the productivity of high sodium, or sodic, soils. Water tends to run off the surface, depriving plants of enough moisture. About 1.8 million acres of irrigated crop and pasture land in western states are classified as sodic.

But, whey’s calcium, magnesium and potassium “actually replace the harmful sodium in sodic soils,” Robbins said. Getting rid of excess sodium improves the soil’s structure. Water soaks in more easily and thirsty plants can drink, he said.

Robbins said whey’s nitrogen and phosphorus also help nourish growing plants. Barley grown on healthy soil yields up to 90 bushels per acre. On whey-treated sodic soil in greenhouse experiments, he said, researchers harvested the equivalent of 42 bushels per acre. But without whey, the barley planted in sodic soils produced no grain at all.

“Our findings suggest we’ve found a practical use for something that is otherwise a disposal problem,” Robbins said. Studies at Kimberly, now in their second year, are expected to help scientists determine the amounts of whey to use to restore eroded soils and crop production.

Julie Corliss (510) 559-6069

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## **MADIGAN AND LUJAN APPOINT RADIO/TV BROADCAST USE FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WASHINGTON, June 15—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan and Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today announced the appointment of nine members to the Radio and Television Broadcast Use Fee Advisory Committee. The committee will advise the secretaries on appropriate methods

of determining fair market value for radio and television broadcast uses authorized on lands managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The Federal Land and Policy Management Act requires that the United States receive fair market value for use of public lands and their resources unless otherwise provided by statute.

“The recommendations of this committee will help us develop a fee structure which reflects the fair market value for the use of the property,” Madigan said. “Since a majority of broadcast sites are located on federal lands, we need to be sure the public is fairly compensated.”

“The individuals selected for this committee are experts in their fields,” Lujan said. “I am confident that their work will enable the federal government to fully examine this issue and set rental fees in a way that is fair to both taxpayers and broadcasters.”

The secretaries are asking the committee to review the issues promptly so that a report can be provided to Congress.

The advisory committee members were selected from a cross-section of organizations and individuals with an interest in the administration of communications uses on National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands. The secretaries appointed Richard Spight, Diablo Communications, Inc., Pt. Richmond, Calif., to chair the committee.

Other members are: Jerry Danziger, KOB-TV, Albuquerque, N.M.; Charlton Buckley, Henry Broadcasting Co., Atherton, Calif.; Kent Parsons, University of Utah, Monroe, Utah; Wayne Hardy, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Olympia, Wash.; Lee Smith, member of the American Society of Managers and Rural Appraisers and the Appraisal Institute, Carson City, Nev.; Pamela Portin, US West NewVector Group, Inc., Mill Creek, Wash.; Emmett Kitchen, Jr., National Association of Business and Education Radio, Alexandria, Va.; Gary Beyerman, Weyerhaeuser Co., Snoqualmie, Wash.; Dave Cavanaugh, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C.; and



Gordon Small, USDA Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

The duties of the committee are to review and report:—the use of appraisals to establish fair market rental fees for radio and television broadcast uses on lands administered by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management;—the reasonable options for establishing fair market rental fees for radio and television broadcast uses; and—the appropriateness of waivers or reductions in rental fees for radio and television broadcast uses based on requirements for licensing under the Communications Act of 1934 and within the authority of the Federal Land and Policy Management Act of 1976.

Gordon Meyer (202) 205-1781

Tom Gory (202) 208-5717

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## **USDA EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR QUALIFYING ACREAGE AS SUMMERFALLOW**

WASHINGTON, June 15—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture is extending by two weeks the deadline for farmers and ranchers in ten states to qualify acreage as summerfallow under the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

Producers in Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming now have until July 1 to qualify land as summerfallow.

Madigan said the deadline is being extended due to adverse weather conditions in parts of the ten-state area.

He said that by extending the deadline for qualifying crop land as summerfallow, producers will have more time to determine the management practice which best fits their current conditions.

“This action stems from President Bush’s strong commitment to farmers. The President believes one of the main roles of USDA is to help farmers hurt by natural disasters.” Madigan said.

Summerfallow is the practice of controlling weeds and grass on crop land to conserve soil moisture and improve absorption of precipitation. To qualify land as summerfallow for crop insurance purposes, USDA’s Federal Crop Insurance Corporation requires producers to remove plant growth on summerfallow by using continuous chemical and/or mechanical

weed control programs. This process must begin by a date specified for the area.

Acres insured as summerfallow under the crop insurance program is used to produce crops every other year.

Doriene Steeves (202) 254-8442

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## **SUMMER, USDA LAB IS AN INSTITUTION FOR HIGHER LEARNING—ABOUT ALFALFA**

WASHINGTON, June 16—Alfalfa farmers may someday owe a debt to a young woman who didn't know what the plant looked like two years ago.

Aimee Crago, a high-school senior in 1990, spent that summer and the next helping a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist rate alfalfa plants for resistance to anthracnose, one of the crop's worst diseases.

The disease is caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum trifolii*, says Crago's scientist mentor, Nichole R. O'Neill of USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Md. Yield loss from anthracnose can reach \$200 million in years when severe epidemics strike, O'Neill said.

But Crago's experiments in 1990 and 1991 confirmed that two of more than 2,000 test alfalfa strains had something rare—high resistance to race 2 of the disease. The plant's resistance to another form, race 1 is fairly common.

A commercial breeder plans to release one of the race-2 resistant strains next year as a new variety for farmers, says O'Neill, a plant pathologist with the Soybean and Alfalfa Research Laboratory.

Crago, from Metairie, La., began her alfalfa studies in 1990, shortly after her junior year at Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans. "I didn't even know what alfalfa plants looked like and I was apprehensive about spending my vacation studying them," she says.

For five weeks she worked with O'Neill in a nonpaying position—as the core of her internship with the Research Science Institute.

RSI is a program sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education, a nonprofit organization based in McLean, Va. The late Admiral Hyman G. Rickover created the CEE in 1984 "to help our best students and teachers keep the United States competitive in science and technology," says CEE president Joann DiGennaro.



As an RSI intern in 1990 and a paid summer employee in 1991, Crago put in hundreds of hours helping O'Neill rate alfalfa for anthracnose resistance. Crago grew thousands of alfalfa seedlings in growth chambers. Then she sprayed them with a liquid solution of fungus spores and recorded how many seedlings survived.

"By the end of that first summer," she says, "my experience had proven to me that a career in research was what I eventually wanted." One of Crago's reports on her ARS experiments helped her win honors as a semifinalist in the Westinghouse Talent Search for 1990. Now at Tulane University in New Orleans, Crago is considering a future in medical biochemical research.

Meanwhile, O'Neill is searching for biochemical clues that explain how some alfalfa plants ward off race 2 of the anthracnose fungus. The mechanism behind race 2 resistance, she suspects, "may differ from that in plants that withstand race 1. If we can identify the mechanism and the genes controlling it, we might be able to insert the genes into alfalfa plants. Then industry can develop new, highly resistant commercial varieties for farmers."

Jim De Quattro (301) 504-8648

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES 1992 BURLEY TOBACCO GRADE SUPPORT RATES**

WASHINGTON, June 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today announced grade loan rates for the 1992 crop of burley tobacco, based on the price support level of \$1.649 per pound.

Keith Bjerke, CCC executive vice president, said the national support level for burley is 6.5 cents per pound more than the price support level for the 1991 crop.

Bjerke said the grade loan rates were developed after consultation with the two burley loan associations through which burley tobacco price support loans are made.

Both burley associations, the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association and the Burley Stabilization Corporation, will deduct one cent per pound from the grade loan rates for administrative overhead costs.

The loan rates range from \$.62 to \$1.87 per pound for the 1992 crop. For the 1991 crop, the price support level was \$1.584 per pound and the loan rates ranged from \$.62 to \$1.84 per pound.

CCC will not provide loans on burley tobacco graded N2L, N2R, N2G, NO- G (no grade), “W” (doubtful keeping order), “U” (unsound) or scrap.

### 1992 Crop Burley Price Support Schedule

Grade	Loan Rate	Grade	Loan Rate	Grade	Loan Rate
Cents per pound farm sales weight)					
B1F	187	B3K	157	T3F	177
B2F	186	B4K	153	T4F	171
B3F	184	B5K	148	T5F	166
B4F	182				
B5F	180	B2M	183	T3FR	177
		B3M	181	T4FR	171
B2FL	178	B4M	179	T5FR	166
B3FL	175	B5M	172		
B4FL	172			T3R	177
		B3VF	174	T4R	171
B1FR	187	B4VF	168	T5R	166
B2FR	186	B5VF	162		
B3FR	184			T4D	144
B4FR	182	B3VR	175	T5D	136
B5FR	180	B4VR	169		
		B5VR	163	T4K	140
B1R	187			T5K	131
B2R	186	B3GF	149		
B3R	184	B4GF	146	T4VF	156
B4R	182	B5GF	142	T5VF	149
B5R	180				
		B3GR	149	T4VR	156
B4D	151	B4GR	146	T5VR	149
B5D	143	B5GR	142		

T4GF	138	C3V	173	M3F	131
T5GF	130	C4V	169	M4F	127
		C5V	162	M5F	123
T4GR	138				
T5GR	130	C4G	141	M3FR	129
		C5G	133	M4FR	125
C1L	178			M5FR	123
C2L	177	X1F	182		
C3L	176	X2F	179	M4K	106
C4L	174	X3F	177	M5K	96
C5L	170	X4F	174		
		X5F	165	M4G	102
C1F	186			M5G	98
C2F	184	X1L	181		
C3F	183	X2L	178	N1L	100
C4F	181	X3L	176	N1F	102
C5F	179	X4L	172	N1R	102
		X5L	165	N1G	62
C3K	153				
C4K	146	X4M	142		
C5K	142	X5M	137		
C3M	165	X4G	126		
C4M	157	X5G	115		
C5M	149				

Tobacco graded N2L, N2R, N2G, “U” (unsound), “W” (doubtful keeping order), “NO-G” (no grade), or scrap, will not be accepted. Cooperatives are authorized to deduct \$1 per hundred pounds to apply against overhead costs.

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

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## NEW FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH PROJECT ESTABLISHED AT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

Washington, June 17—A new U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service research project is being established at Lincoln University, an 1890 Land Grant institution in Jefferson City, Mo.

“We welcome the opportunity for a research project of the Forest Service to be located on Lincoln University’s campus,” Dr. Wendell Rayburn Sr., president of the university, said.

Dr. Ronald Lindmark, director of the Forest Service’s North Central Forest Experiment Station, called the new effort “an excellent opportunity for the Forest Service to strengthen ties with the historically black university’s faculty and students while learning how best to manage the central hardwoods forests in an environmentally sound way.”

The Lincoln research unit, a part of the North Central Station, will study the long-term effects of forest management practices on site productivity in central hardwoods forest ecosystems. Researchers will begin by establishing long-term plots on national forests in the region as part of a national study of timber harvesting to determine how biomass and forest litter removal and soil compaction by harvesting equipment affect site productivity.

“The Forest Service is charged with protecting the land, especially the soils,” said Dr. Felix Ponder Jr., head of the new project. “It is our responsibility to make sure the soil productivity is not diminished by management activities.”

Now temporarily based at the North Central Station office in Columbia, Mo., Ponder has been spending a few days each month on the Lincoln University campus, conducting research and serving as an adjunct professor with some responsibilities for advising students. This fall he and a research technician, Darrell Alley, will move into newly renovated office space on campus. A second scientist will soon join them. They and Lincoln University faculty and students will continue working together—through cooperative education and research—in a partnership that began several years ago.

The new research project at Lincoln University will be modeled after one pioneered by the Forest Service’s Southern Station and another historically black university, Alabama A & M.

A signing ceremony to formalize the new project was held today in Washington at Forest Service national headquarters. Those attending the



signing included Lincoln University President Dr. Wendell Rayburn Sr.  
and USDA Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson.

John Denne (202) 205-0974

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